

Re: the recertification of TRS & the importance of Speech-to-Speech services

As a past member of the FCC's CDTAC Committee, I offer my support for the recertification of TRS for people with speech disabilities. Specifically, I wish to point out that STS is presently not adequately advertised in my state, Pennsylvania. People who could most benefit from STS (including the hard of hearing, speech disabled, and senior citizens) are generally not aware of STS, how it works, or how to request it. In the recertification process, I urge the FCC to require that states include STS in their TRS Outreach and Education minimum standards, as written under Regulation 47 C.F.R. section 64.604. I cannot adequately express the importance of being able to use a telephone! It is a necessity for every aspect of life --- work, health, schooling, transportation, social life, and personal safety. STS enables people with speech disabilities to use a telephone and that is an enormous contribution to the overall goal of Telecommunication Relay Services.

Shelley Nixon